

Testimony of Mayra
Transportation Committee Hearing

Mayra
CONNECT Member
St Rose of Lima

My name is Mayra. Some of you have heard my story before but today I am here to tell another one.

Nancy is 11 years old and it's been seven months since she has seen her dad. She still can't stop crying when people talk about him. Her mom and sister try to comfort her but they too are saddened by the loss of the man of the house.

Javier, Nancy's dad, was deported after he drove to visit family members. He was detained for not having a form of identification when he was pulled over. After six months in prison, they sent him back to Mexico, where he hadn't lived for over 11 years.

During those 11 years, Javier had been living in Connecticut with his family, working in construction and spending time with his two daughters. His daughter Nancy was born here; his oldest daughter Edith is one of the Dreamers.

Nancy and Edith don't know when they will see their father again because he can't return to the US—to his home in Connecticut. Nancy can't go see her dad because Mexico, like many of the places immigrants come from, is too dangerous.

Javier's wife, Leticia, now will have to support her family with only one salary. She will have to work and look after her daughters alone.

Nancy, Javier's youngest daughter, is only in the fifth grade, and she is in special education classes. Nancy doesn't smile anymore. From being a happy little girl, she now doesn't even want to go to school. She just wants to stay at home and cry.

This horrible experience has been very hard for the whole family. And for many Connecticut families, it's a familiar story they've suffered all as a result of not having a simple driver's license.

This story is very similar to what I went through this year. But my story was resolved well and my mom is still here with me.

I'm here telling this story because Nancy and Edith are my cousins and Javier is my uncle. I'm testifying on behalf of so many Connecticut residents who will face the same awful situation.